

INTRODUCTION TO ALLELUIA AWARD
PRESENTED TO SR. JANET BAXENDALE, S.C.
OCTOBER 11, 2019 ◆ CHICAGO, IL



On this fiftieth anniversary of the Federation, it is indeed appropriate that we recognize someone who has given decades of service to her archdiocesan commission and to the FDLC. From 1976 to 2001, Sr. Janet Baxendale served as Executive Secretary of the Liturgical Commission of the Archdiocese of New York and as Director of the Archdiocesan Liturgy Office. She still serves as chair of the Commission on Art and Architecture for the Archdiocese.

Her love of the Federation goes back to our earliest days. As national process facilitator, Janet developed the process for Resolutions of Immediate Concern that we still use today -- this is just one manifestation of Janet's concern that all deserved a voice in the Federation. She served on the FDLC Board of Directors from 1978-1985 and served six years on the Executive Committee -- two terms as Vice Chair and two years as Chair (1982-1983). During her chairmanship, the FDLC transitioned through three executive directors and we saw enormous improvement and development in the function of the Board and national office. Sr. Janet deserves to be remembered for much more than her never-to-be forgotten statement, "We cannot rely forever on the Mystery of Faith."

Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1937, she entered the Sisters of Charity of New York on September 8, 1957. She earned a BA in History from the College of Mount Saint Vincent (1962); an MA in History from Manhattan College (1967); and an MA in Liturgy from the University of Notre Dame (1971).

Ever the teacher, she taught at St. Gregory the Great Elementary School (Harrison, NY; 1960-1962); was a teacher of Religion and History at Cardinal Spellman High School (Bronx, NY, 1962-1976); and a professor of Liturgy at New York School of Liturgical Music (1979 to 1983). From 1993 to 2015, she was an Adjunct Professor of Liturgy at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, NY and (concurrently) from 1977 to 2013 was a Professor of Liturgy in the Institute of Religious Studies (Masters Program) at St. Joseph Seminary, Yonkers.

In 1995 and in 1997, she coordinated the liturgies for the visits of Pope John Paul II to New York and in 2008, she served on the Committee for Texts for the visit of Pope Benedict XVI. She prepared the funeral liturgies for Terrence Cardinal Cooke in 1983; coordinated the liturgies for the installation of Archbishop Edward Egan (2000); and the funeral of John Cardinal O'Connor (2000).

Her gifts have also been shared with the wider Church of the United States. From 1993-2010 and again from 2013 to the present, Sr. Janet has been appointed as a consultant to the Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship (formerly Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy). From 2001-2005, she was a member of the Task Group on Liturgy with Children and from 1996-1999 she was a member of the BCL Task Group which prepared *Built of Living Stones*.

She has written numerous articles and given countless presentations, including plenary addresses to the FDLC.

In recognition of all the contributions which she has made to her archdiocese, to the formation of clergy and lay ministers, to this Federation, to the Bishops' Conference and to all the people of God, we are pleased to present the 2019 Alleluia Award to Sr. Janet Baxendale. ■ RT